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CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims 1-15 is submitted herewith per 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims 1-15 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reconfiguring software in a communications system, the method comprising:
a first communications station transmitting a software reconfiguration message to a second communications station[,];
the software reconfiguration message including indicia which is useable by the second station to estimate how long it will take to reconfigure itself[,];
the second station receiving the message and using the indicia estimates its reconfiguration time[,];
the second station sending a message giving an indication of the reconfiguration time to the first station[,]; and
the first station, in response to determining the reconfiguration time, waiting until after the time has elapsed before using the reconfigured software in communication with the second station.
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2. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that further comprising: the second station stores storing the maximum time required for reconfiguration, and wherein the indicia sent in the software reconfiguration message is used to determine what proportion of that time will be required to implement the reconfiguration.
3. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim 2, characterised in that wherein the maximum reconfiguration time of the second station and fractions of the maximum reconfiguration time are stored in a ROM and in that the indicia in the software reconfiguration message are used to provide a ROM address.

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4. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that ~~wherein the indicia in the software reconfiguration message relate to a particular layer of the software to be reconfigured and in that further comprising:~~ the second station stores storing estimates of reconfiguration times of each ~~of the software layer of a plurality of software layers, wherein the indicia in the software reconfiguration message relate to a particular software layer to be reconfigured.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised by having wherein, for a plurality of second stations, at least 2 of which two second stations have different maximum reconfiguration times.

6. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that further comprising: the first station reconfigures reconfiguring its configuration software relating to the or the respective second station software reconfiguration message by the expiry of the reconfiguration time.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a software reconfiguration message for transmission from a first station to a second station, the method comprising:

establishing a header in the software reconfiguration message; and
the message including incorporating indicia in the header, wherein the indicia which is useable by the second station to estimate the time it will take to reconfigure itself.

8. (Currently Amended) A message The method as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that wherein the indicia is useable to express the degree of complexity of reconfiguration processes.

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9. (Currently Amended) A message The method as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that wherein the indicia expresses the degree of complexity as a proportion of the maximum reconfiguration time.

10. (Currently Amended) A message The method message as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that wherein the indicia includes information indicating the software layer to be reconfigured.

11. (Currently Amended) A communication system, comprising:
a primary station including
a first transceiver,
a first processor, and
a first store for storing configuration software; and
at least one secondary station, ~~the primary station including a transceiver, a processor and a store for storing the configuration software of the or each secondary station, and the or wherein each secondary station comprising includes~~
a second transceiver,
a second processor,
a second store for storing configuration software,
means for reconfiguring at least some of the configuration software in the store,
means for estimating the reconfiguration time on the basis of indicia included in a reconfiguration message transmitted by the primary station, and
means for transmitting the reconfiguration time being transmitted to
the primary station.

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12. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in claim 11, characterised by wherein the first processor in the primary station including includes timing means for causing the configuration software in respect of the secondary station to be reconfigured by the expiry of the reconfiguration time transmitted by the secondary station.

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13. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in claim 11, characterised in that the or wherein each secondary station includes a non-volatile memory storing at respective locations the maximum software reconfiguration time and predetermined fractions of the said maximum reconfiguration time; and
in that wherein the primary station includes means for including a memory location information in said indicia.

14. (Currently Amended) A station, having comprising:
a transceiver[.];
a processor[.];
a store for storing configuration software[.];
means, responsive to an external message, for reconfiguring software in the store[.]; and
means for estimating a reconfiguration time in response to indicia in the external message and for causing the transceiver to transmit the estimated reconfiguration time.
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15. (Currently Amended) A The station as claimed in claim 14, characterised in that there is provided further comprising a non-volatile memory storing at respective locations the maximum software reconfiguration time and predetermined fractions of the said maximum reconfiguration time representing estimates, and in that wherein one of said estimates is selected in response to the received indicia.